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EPSTEIN'S TROPIC ISLE OF BABES

By PageSix.com Staff

October 29, 2007 | 9:00am

THE sordid sex scandals surrounding **Jeffrey Epstein** are making waves in the Caribbean, where the billionaire owns a private 900-acre getaway and has deep financial ties to the governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Epstein – soon to cop a plea to soliciting sex from teen hookers at his Palm Beach estate – is being sued by a drug-addicted, transgender model who claims he/she was pressured into having sex with Epstein at the age of 16.

Sources say the former math teacher, who owns the lush, tropical island of Little St. James, off the coast of St. Thomas, regularly ferried boatloads of young women there.

Sources also say Epstein enjoys a warm relationship with USVI Gov. **John P. deJongh Jr.** "Epstein has donated as much as \$1 million to the governor's election campaign," said our source. In addition, Epstein, who runs the charitable J. Epstein Virgin Islands Foundation, employs deJongh's wife, **Cecile**, as its director. He also pays for the education of the governor's children at the exclusive Antilles School on St. Thomas.

"There is concern that the deJonghs will now be associated with a sexual predator," our insider said.

Epstein's spokesman, **Howard Rubenstein**, told Page Six that Cecile DeJongh has worked for the foundation for nine years, making less than \$125,000 annually. "There's no one better to know the needs of charities on the island than this woman," he told us, adding that all of Epstein's employees, not just the deJonghs, are given free tuition for their kids.

Rubenstein said deJongh has never been to Epstein's island, although he wouldn't comment on whether Epstein has imported platoons of young babes.

"Jeffrey is proud of what he gives to charity. He's really pleased to be able to able to help people on the island with his foundation," Rubenstein said.

DeJongh's flack didn't return our call, but the governor has told the St. John Tradewinds newspaper about his wife's position: "It's just a job; that's all. I think it's highly appropriate she continue there."

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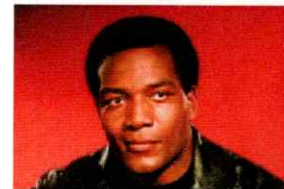
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